

Wanderers continue their unbeaten run...

HUTCHINSON GOAL CLINCHES THRILLER AS BLUES SURGE ON

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Enfield 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS confirmed the close-season shift in power with a calculated, highly-convincing defeat of Isthmian League champions, Enfield, at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening.

England team boss, Charles Hughes, watched seven of his Helsinki party in action on the same pitch, and saw some lively exchanges.

Few results will give Wycombe greater satisfaction. One goal about summed up their superiority, although, with a little more fortune up front, they could have turned the evening into another "Sutton".

Again, as on Saturday, John Hutchinson was their match winner. Yet unlike at Clapton, this time Wycombe's attack as a whole can sit back and reap the glory.

HOTTEST!

Between the three of them, Hutchinson, Geoff Anthony and Iary Pritchard subjected Enfield's defence to the hottest harassment they are ever likely to go through.

And, although still not finding his true form, Keith Searle lured not only Smith, but also Betson away from the action, leaving the visitors exposed to the trio's treatment.

By full time Enfield were stretched, battered and frayed around the edges. That they weren't in total shreds speaks volumes for the defence upon which manager Howard Moxon seems to be basing his plans.

But it was enough for those Wycombe supporters whose memories still sting from the points robbery Enfield staged in the early weeks of last season. One down and being pressed fiercely in the final ten minutes, the champions hit back from nowhere to win 2-1 and take the points that were ultimately to decide the 1969-70 title.

Not since that day — as far back as August 26, 1969 — have Wycombe been beaten in a League match at Loakes Park.

One record was smashed on Tuesday however. Enfield, previously unbeaten with five wins and two draws from seven outings, tasted defeat for the first time.

Now only Wycombe remain to be conquered. And judging by their eight successive wins — over such top clubs as Sutton and Hitchin — that privilege will elude their Isthmian rivals for some time.

TONY OUT

Wanderers' manager, Brian Lee caused a sizeable shock by omitting last season's leading scorer, Tony Horseman on the substitute's bench, to make way for Geoff Anthony on his return from the casualty list.

Badly blistered feet after his debut at Clapton, ruled out Paul Fuschillo on the hard ground, and Charlie Gale's twisted ankle, gave Ian Rundle a further chance to establish a claim for a regular place in the back division.

Rundle, with effort written all over his play, was rewarded with his best 90 minutes' football to date.

Anthony, a 100 per cent worker who seems loth even to stop for breath at times, also hit the jackpot. The little Welshman's earlier performances this season had hardly done him justice, but to the discomfort of the Enfield defence, Tuesday night was the turning-point.

Enfield quickly emphasised that they hadn't come to Wycombe just for a share of the points, but by mid-way through the first half, Wanderers had made it equally as clear they weren't giving anything away either.

The result, after the Blues went one up in the 21st minute... a thrilling duel tempered down only by the tendency of both teams to cancel each other out.

Wanderers' goal was as sudden as it was shattering. Former Wealdstone "keeper" Andy Williams found himself caught between the devil and a deep blue sea of shirts, half watching

The move illustrated exactly how Enfield's defences could be cut into. Unfortunately it wasn't until late in the match that Wycombe began to exploit the weakness of Smith, another ex-Stone who failed last season to subdue Searle when Wycombe visited Lower Mead.

Hill almost headed Enfield back into the game in the 34th minute, but he transferred Lawrence's cross onto the Wycombe bar.

The opening minutes after half time were disrupted by the wanderings of a large dog, cheekily interrupting play for five minutes and causing referee Bune to take out his book in mock style.

But Mr. Bune wasn't joking any longer when the rugged Smith up-ended Anthony; out came the book again, and in went Smith's name.

Enfield substituted Spurs Youth player, Les Charker for Mel Lawrence, in hopes that a fresh player might take effect. And indeed six minutes later, in the 84th minute, Duggan crashed a shot over the bar as the visitors flung everything into attack.

Another Duggan drive met a similar fate, but with Williams covering a fine header from Hutchinson and Smith anxiously clearing a Seattle punt, Wanderers avoided any repetition of last season's finale.

M.W.

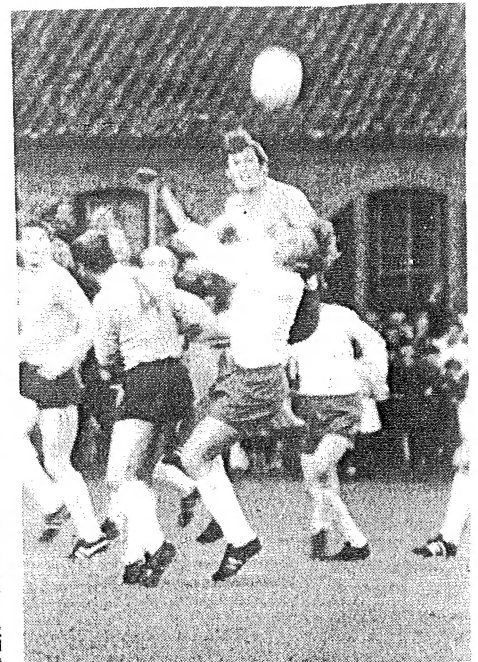
WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell, I. Rundle, K. Blunt, E. Powell, J. Delaney, B. Baker, G. Anthony, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, B. Bremer, J. Hutchinson, sub. A. Horseman.

ENFIELD: A. Williams, L. Tilley, T. Gibson, J. Payne, P. Betson, M. Smith, M. Lawrence, (sub. L. Charker), J. Brookes, S. Hill, K. Gray, C. Duggan.

Referee: Mr. T. G. O. P. Bune (Sussex).

Attendance: 4,900.

Gate and stand receipts: £720.



Wycombe Wanderers' skipper John Delaney is away during one of Enfield's attacks. On the left Ian Rundle. Number 4 is Ted Powell and Bert on the extreme right.